

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

REAP County Conservation Board Grants – September 2007

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The Department requests Commission approval of the committee recommendations for REAP County Conservation Board Grants.

The Project Review and Selection Committee for REAP County Conservation Board grants met September 12, 2007 to evaluate project applications. Committee members are Jim Liechty, Chair (Madison CCB), Harry Graves (Johnson CCB), Mark Peterson (Woodbury CCB), Angela Corio, DNR Landscape Architect, and Tom Anderson, DNR Energy and Waste Management Environmental Specialist.

Thirty-four applications totaling about \$6 million in grant requests were submitted for consideration during this FY 08 grant round. Available funds total \$1,251,360, a 40% increase over the previous year. Below are the six top ranking projects and attached is the scoring showing all projects. Your approval of the selection committee's recommendations to fund these six projects is requested. Note that 6<sup>th</sup> ranked project of Polk CCB will be funded at about \$31,000 less than requested.

If the next ranked project declines funding, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored project (full ranking list attached).

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Hohneke addition to Hitchcock Nature Center (Phase I) – Pottawattamie CCB. Purchase of 100 acres of prime Loess Hills habitat adjacent to the nature center. The Naomi Jean Hohneke family desires to contribute a stewardship endowment for the property. \$292,000
2. Ruby tract addition to the Iowa River Green Belt – Hardin CCB. Purchase of 60 acres along the Iowa River Greenbelt Scenic Drive next to Tower Rock Park. Offered as a bargain sale by the owners. \$67,500
3. Fen acquisition – Jasper CCB. Purchase of 31.5 acres that includes a 6.5-acre high quality, rare fen, with remaining acreage in cropland. Cropland will be restored to native prairie. \$150,000.
4. Oak Ridge addition, Loess Hills – Woodbury CCB. Purchase of 315 acres of Loess Hills land within the boundary of the 3,200-acre Oak Ridge Conservation Area, between Smithland and

Oto and connecting two existing county properties. Site includes archaeological sites. \$333,000.

5. Cortright Wildlife Area – Buchanan CCB. Purchase of 152 acres of Wapsipinicon River frontage (about 1 mile), including forest, forest wetlands, 5 fishable ponds and 27 acres of cropland to be converted to wetland prairie. \$150,000.
6. Shaw addition to Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt – Polk CCB. Purchase of 312 acres of a 700-acre in-holding within the 9,000-acre, 2-county conservation project. Price per acre is about ½ normal pricing within the county. Requested \$290,000, allocated \$258,860.

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS = \$1,251,360**

Ken Herring, Administrator  
Conservation and Recreation Division

October 11, 2007

Attachment: 2007 CCB REAP Grant Scoring